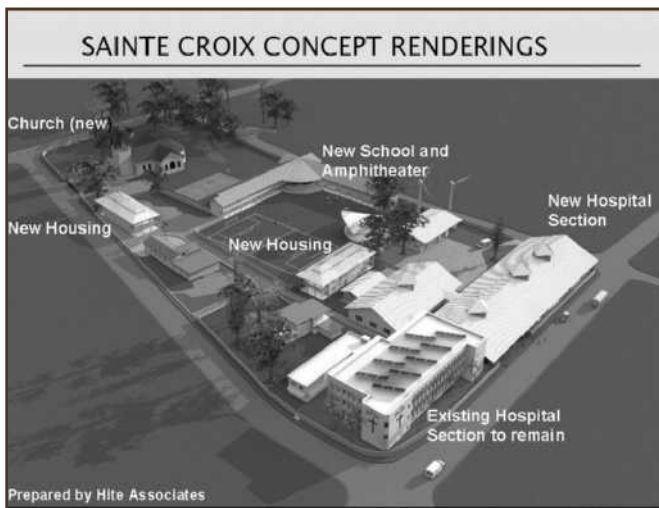


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In Partnership With
Presbyterian
Church (USA)

Major Reconstruction Announced for Quake-damaged Haiti



Architect's rendering of the Haiti City of Champions reconstruction project.

The Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) has just announced a major project to reconstruct and expand medical and educational facilities near the epicenter of the earthquake that devastated Haiti on January 12, 2010. The project is being conducted by MBF in partnership with the City of Champions for Haiti, a coalition that includes business, healthcare, and building trade leaders of the Pittsburgh area. The Hospital of St. Croix, an important reference hospital for the area around Leogane, was badly damaged in the quake—an impact still being felt by the hundreds of thousands of Haitians injured. The \$10.5 million project will essentially revitalize an entire block containing the grounds of the Hospital. The work includes restoration and retrofit of the existing 3 story hospital, construction of a new wing, an operating facility, new emergency room, and several other buildings providing support services. The project will also include Pittsburgh-

based medical expert consultation through newly supplied telemedical technologies.

MBF Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Will Browne, notes, "While many relief organizations have provided much appreciated help after the quake, MBF has a long-standing relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of



One section of Hospital Ste. Croix damaged in the Haiti earthquake.

Haiti, which owns and operates the hospital, and a long history of supporting health operations in Haiti. We, therefore, have a shared commitment to ensure not just short-term response, but long-term growth and recovery in the region. With the help of our partners in the City of Champions for Haiti, a giant leap forward has been made for the country and its people."

Even before this project, the Pittsburgh coalition and MBF worked with charitable shipping organizations such as Brother's Brother immediately after the earthquake to provide another \$10 million of medical supplies, equipment, and professional help. To learn more about this important project, please visit our dedicated web page on the Haiti Health Project @mbfoundation.org.

From the Executive Director

“For God so loved the world...”(John 3:16f) is not a past-tense statement. God’s gift of Jesus for our salvation is historic fact, and the love of God measured there continues full force today. I am struck that God expresses that saving love in many places and times of need. Psalm 107 and Luke 4:16f are just two of the passages that tell of God’s concern for an inclusive range of human troubles and struggles. God’s love gets expressed in an amazing breadth of ministries including evangelism, advocacy, feeding, and healing. God invites us to be a part of the extension of that deep and sacrificial divine love to the entire world.



Dr. Will Browne

We help extend God’s love when we:

- are part of a worshipping community of faith,
- care for close neighbors in need, support local mission of witness and service,
- support our sisters-and-brothers-in-Christ as they share the fullness of the gospel in places far from us, and
- pray, give, and work for the provision of quality medical care for all those in need.

All of this continues the gospel or the ‘Testaments’ of God, from Old to New to Now!

When we join together in mission, we are continuing a rich history of Christian compassion. In that history, the caring and skilled giving of medical treatment, without prejudice or favoritism, becomes a powerful testimony to God’s love for all. People of other faiths in many places have come, and continue to come, to Christian medical institutions knowing those institutions are Christian, but confident that they will receive the best available care and will be treated with compassion and respect, regardless of their faith, circumstances, or ‘station’ in life.

Our mission partner hospitals, clinics, and community health programs have been saying in powerful ways, “Regardless of who you are, God loves you and wants the best possible health care for you and offers you a life eternal through the grace of Christ.”

By the grace of God, you and I get to be part of God’s sharing of love, healing, and life through the ministries done through the Medical Benevolence Foundation.

Thanks be to God,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Will Browne".

Thinking About “A Short-term Mission Volunteer’s Experience”

You walk into a hospital room where a woman lies dying from AIDS. She calls to you and you go to her. You hold her and pray for her. She weeps with gratitude that you would actually touch her.

You watch while a donated suture that you brought with you from the U.S. is

used to repair a hole in a three-year-old boy’s heart. You are impressed that the senior cardiothoracic surgeon has raised funds for children with medical challenges like this one.

A nursing student stops you in the hall. She is weeping because she believes God wants her to study to be a nurse, but her father wants her to marry someone he has found to be a suitable husband for her. You pray together.

These are some of the experiences of Rev. Dr. Sue Dickson and her daughter who recently volunteered for MBF’s short-term medical mission program and were assigned to Wanless Hospital in India. Rev. Dickson says, “Traveling to another country where I could befriend other Christians and work side-by-side with them in the name of the Lord, and then return to share their stories, embodies my understanding of building up the body of Christ in the world.”

For information on MBF’s short-term medical mission program, contact Chip Lambert at clambert@mbfoundation.org.



Rev. Sue Dickson (left) and her daughter, Liz, presenting sutures to Dr. Shirish Pargaonkar during their short-term medical mission trip to India.

Snapshots: News from the Mission Field

Mulanje Hospital in Malawi faces measles epidemic

Mulanje Hospital is bracing itself for an outbreak of deadly Measles. Already, enough cases have been reported in the area to be designated an outbreak and some children have died. The hospital has launched a campaign in highly risky communities in the district, targeting children from 9 months to 15 years for vaccinations. One area targeted is a village where several children had measles and parents refused to take them to a hospital for treatment. Thousands were in the village attending a funeral, and could have had contact with the disease. Normally, the government would handle such a campaign but there are no resources.

>For more on this story, please visit us online at www.MBFoundation.org

The "Older Orphans" of Africa

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has not only robbed children of their parents, it has robbed older parents of their adult children. Janet Guyer, PC(USA) HIV/AIDS consultant for Southern Africa, calls these parents *older orphans*: "Southern Africa has the highest HIV/AIDS infection rate in the world," Janet Guyer reports. "Everyone is affected in some way by the pandemic." Janet works with our partner churches in South Africa who are facing the needs of these "older orphans" and the children who are now in their care. The church in South Africa needs our prayers. Janet says, "Pray they they will have wisdom about how they can address the HIV/AIDS issue for their church."

>For more on this story, please visit us online at www.MBFoundation.org

Bringing Healing through Christ in one of the world's poorest countries

John and Gwen Haspels, PC(USA) mission co-workers, work with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Mekane Yesus in a remote area of Ethiopia, one of the poorest countries in the world. When a teenager was shot in the hip, their clinic was not equipped to deal with the injury. Gwen and John took the boy to the CURE Hospital in Addis Ababa where he received a total hip replacement and is now walking. Gwen says, "God is so good to us to provide people who will help us help people—especially young people who will have a full life ahead of them."

>For more on this story, please visit us online at www.MBFoundation.org

Medical Mission Co-workers find a home away from home

Paul Heller had already served as a PC(USA) pastor for 35 years when he and his wife, Darlene, decided to take on a three-year assignment at a nursery for AIDS orphans in Malawi. Paul is director of Ministry of Hope Crisis Nursery in Mzuzu and Darlene is the matron. Together with their staff they have loved and cared for, and saved the lives of, hundreds of infants. Today, Malawi is faced with caring for up to 2 million orphans. It's clear that the Hellers and the Crisis Nursery are needed. "By far, the most difficult part of our 3-year Mission Co-worker assignment is the absence of our life-long loved ones," write Darlene and Paul Heller.

>For more on this story, please visit us online at www.MBFoundation.org

MBF's CFO visits Haiti after nursing school loses accountant in quake

After the previous accountant at FSIL School of Nursing was killed in Haiti's earthquake, MBF offered Fred Kingston, MBF's Chief Financial Officer, to assist their new accountant with the annual audit. How can we pray for Haiti and its people at this time? Kingston says that one of the major needs is "back hoes and dump trucks" to help them move the rubble off the streets and a place to put it. Up to now, people have been trying to remove it by hand. At this time, we are requesting general donations to MBF so that we can respond to this crisis while also ensuring no part of the organization's operations or other partners are neglected.

>For more on this story, please visit us online at www.MBFoundation.org

Doctors volunteer so patients get care at Salam Medical Center in Egypt

In a recent visit to the MBF office in Houston, TX, Dr. Freddy Elbaiady, Director of Salam Medical Center (SMC) in Egypt, told of the time an old man requested an ultrasound scan for his leg arteries. When told the hospital did not have such an expensive machine, the old man cried. Dr. Elbaiady came to the U.S. to tour PC(USA) churches and tell people how God honored the efforts of a 40-member church to found a small medical center that today serves 30,000 people each year, much of it free. Doctors volunteer so that patients can afford the care they receive. With the help of generous donors, SMC now has an ultrasound scanner.

>For more on this story, please visit us online at www.MBFoundation.org

A night in the life of a missionary doctor

It's somewhere near 2:00 in the morning, and she has sewn up the ruptured uterus of a woman who has just delivered. Not all staff are present and the assistant can only administer ketamine anesthesia, so even though the patient is not awake, she is often moving, adding to the difficulty of an already challenging procedure. Those surgical instruments that are available have seen better days. As usual, there is no running water tonight, so they scrub up from water dripping from buckets. This is only a small part of a typical night for Dr. Martha Sommers, medical officer at Embangweni Hospital in Malawi.

>For more on this story, please visit us online at www.MBFoundation.org

MBF asks for help for those who lost homes in Pakistan's worst flood

Christians in Pakistan are a small minority, but MBF's partner, the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, reports that 1,200 Christian families have lost their homes. The UN reported that the flood in Pakistan has caused more destruction than the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean. About 13.8 million people have been affected (killed, injured, displaced) by the floods. We pray for people of all faiths in the region and offer help to all people. On behalf of our partners in Pakistan, MBF asks for your prayers and your gifts of support to help the people there as they struggle through these tough times.

>For more on this story, please visit us online at www.MBFoundation.org

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Skilled IT volunteers needed for DR Congo Nursing School

For the past ten years, the Nursing and Lab Technology School of the Christian Medical Institute (IMCK) in DR Congo has had a dream: to establish a computer skills training classroom and provide internet access for both student education and faculty research. Now, in God's perfect timing, everything has come together to help this dream come true—everything except people with the skills to help get the system working according to the school's needs.

Funds for fiber-optic cable and used network equipment and computers have been donated and funds for shipment of the equipment have come through MBF.

Students at IMCK's nursing school—both boys and girls—have dug the half-mile of three-foot trenches to house the cable. Even the principal stepped in to pull the cable through to the school site.

"This project demonstrates not only that we can accomplish great things working together," said Dr. Fletcher, "but also that there is a real need for technical expertise even in the mission field in DR Congo."

IMCK needs short-term volunteers with skills in IT or network and server administration, especially those fluent in French. If interested, please contact MBF at info@MBFoundation.org or 800-547-7627 for more information.

Begin Planning Now for Alternative Christmas Giving

This simple Christmas shopping solution can give people in your church an opportunity to participate in mission while solving one of those age-old questions at Christmas: what do I give to someone who doesn't need "any more stuff?" When you give a gift to MBF in the name of a loved one for needs around the world, that gift gives twice, touching the life of both the receiver and the giver.

It's not too early to begin planning now, as churches with successful Alternative Christmas markets have discovered. Contact us at mbfoundation.org or call 800-547-7627 to order free materials for your Alternative Christmas market.

Visit Us Online at www.MBFoundation.org